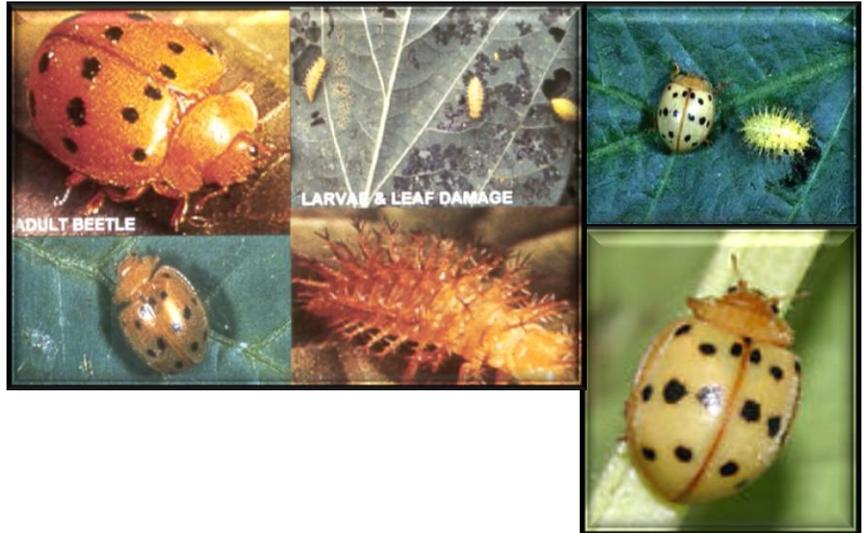


MEXICAN BEAN BEETLE

NOT KNOWN TO OCCUR IN IDAHO



Common Name: Mexican Bean Beetle

Scientific Name: *Epilachna varivestris*

Description

Newly emerged adult Mexican bean beetles are round, about 1/4 inch long, and yellow. Their color changes to copper with age. They are marked by sixteen black spots, eight on each wing cover. Six branching spines are present on each segment of the bright yellow, 1/3 inch-long larvae. Pupae are also bright yellow and have only remnants of larval spines. Eggs are yellow and oval shaped.

Life Cycle

Adults overwinter along fence rows, woodlots, or in stubble and can usually be found within 1/4 mile of the host plants. The beetles become active in the spring, when they fly to host plants, feed for a week or two, and then mate. Normally, 400 to 500 eggs (but occasionally three times this number) are laid in clusters on the undersides of leaves over a period of 3 to 6 weeks. Larvae hatch in 5 to 14 days and feed for 2 to 5 weeks before pupating on the undersurfaces of leaves. Adults emerge 7 to 10 days later and live from 4 to 6 weeks.

Host Plants

Mexican bean beetles have a wide host range. They are most commonly encountered on garden and field beans as well as cowpea. Soybean, clover, alfalfa, and closely related weeds may also be attacked.

Damage

The Mexican bean beetle is the most injurious pest of beans (snap, lima, pole, kidney, pinto, navy, bush). If overwintering populations are high, seedling damage may occur, though economic damage usually does not occur before August. Both larvae and adults feed on leaves, leaving the upper surface intact. Damaged plants have a characteristic lace-like (skeletonized) appearance. These remaining tissues die in about 2 days and turn brown, often giving the entire field a "burnt" cast. Pods and stems are often attacked, and shredded plants may die before any crop is matured.

Other Resources

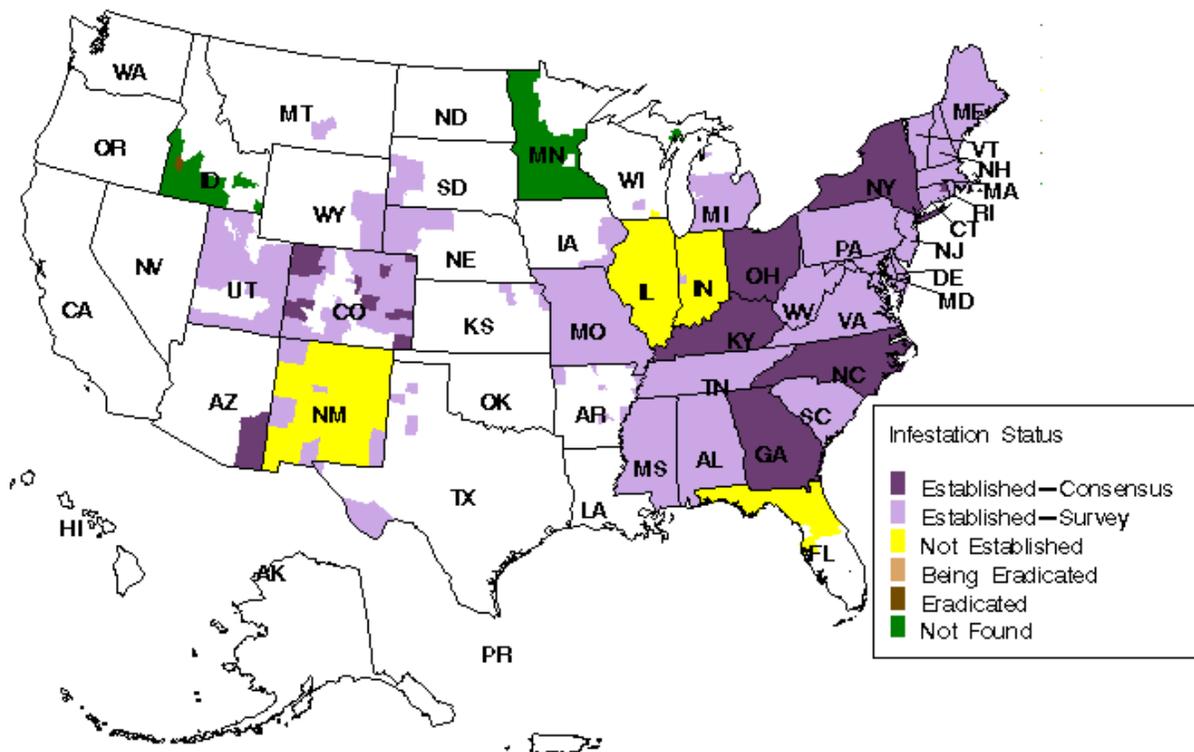
http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/fieldcrops/insects/mexican_bean_beetle/index.html

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Vegetables/veg26.html>

http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/veg/bean/mexican_bean_beetle.htm

Reported Status of Mexican Bean Beetle , *Epilachna varivestis* in US and Puerto Rico

Data retrieved from National Agricultural Pest Information System on 01/17/2012



The Center for Environmental and Regulatory Information Systems does not certify the accuracy or completeness of the map.